



# SITUATION REPORT #157



**INCIDENT NAME:** Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: April 20, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm on Tuesdays	MISSION #20-0265
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**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4971
Recovered	4820
Deaths	64
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	2
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Positivity Rate Walla Walla County for week ending 4/21/2021	3.8%
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	272
College Place	624
Dixie	22
Prescott	126
Touchet/Lowden	87
Waitsburg	79
Walla Walla	3761
<b>Total</b>	4971



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Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		692
20-39		2055
40-59		1420
60-79		621
Over 80		183
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		2057
Male		2914
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4971</b>

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH and community partners have established an equity and access workgroup to improve access to COVID vaccine and education materials for residents that have barriers to registering for vaccine clinics.
- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds, over 28,000 vaccines administered since 1/18/2021
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, April 27th
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response  
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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 03/29/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

## 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Requests Pending.			

***April 20, 2021***

## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Equity Task Force rollout has been successful.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.

## 3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 4971



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- ❖ Recovered: 4820
  - ❖ Deaths: 64
  - ❖ Active: 87
    - In-Home Isolation: 85
    - Hospitalized: 2, Walla Walla County Resident: 2, Out of County: 0
  - Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above:
    - ❖ Incarcerated active: 1
    - ❖ Staff active: 4
  - Positivity Rate 3.8% as of 4/21/21
  - Phase 3 Metrics
    - ❖ New cases: per 100K is 107 without WA State Penitentiary cases (4/6 – 4/19)
    - ❖ Hospitalizations: 2 hospitalizations per 100K (4/13 – 4/19/21)
  - Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
  - Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
  - Seeing a drop in volunteerism for mass vaccination clinics.
  - J&J Clinic cancelled due to concerns about clotting being reported in 6 women. Cancellation will likely have a negative effect on people's impression of the overall safety of the vaccine.
  - Demand for vaccine is 'sluggish' which is concerning.
  - Seeing outbreaks at LTC facilities across the state involving vaccinated employees who are asymptomatic bringing in COVID.
  - Have seen a handful of break-through cases in Walla Walla (positive for COVID 2+ weeks after receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> dose).
  - 10% of positives are randomly sampled; 2 California variants have been identified in Walla Walla County.
  - Response to getting masks to hospitality workers has been underwhelming. Workers are reporting that they already have masks, no interest in stopping by the Chamber of Commerce to pick them up. (WWEM will pick up extras once the Chamber feels that they have distributed all that they can.)
- 4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)**
- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
  - WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
  - Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call is weekly, on Thursdays.
  - Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
  - WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
  - WWEM distribution of resources, including support of mass vaccination clinic.
  - WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
  - Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement assisting PSMC with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
  - DCH weekend staffing.
  - PSMC maintaining daily sit reports.
  - EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.



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- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- DCH and PSMCM are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- DCH doing extensive outreach to encourage residents get the COVID vaccine.
- City of Walla Walla facilities still on track to reopen May 3<sup>rd</sup> (soft opening, no announcement to the public). City council meetings will likely resume on June 7<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping to hear about open public meeting guidance from the State before then.
- WWSO continue to monitor vaccine clinic activity with periodic visits to the Fairgrounds.
- Family Medical Center has Moderna vaccine for this week; appointments scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday Friday.
- Depending upon demand there will be shorter, more frequent clinics at the Providence Southgate Campus. This will replace the mass vaccination clinics at the County Fairgrounds.
- Good response to call for volunteers to assist at vaccination clinic
- Many school districts in WW County have returned to full day schedules. Walla Walla and College Place school districts will resume full-time in-person learning next Monday.
- Upcoming Clinics –
  - Wednesday, April 21, mini clinic at Providence Southgate Campus (pilot)
  - Saturday, April 24, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
  - Sunday, April 25, 1<sup>st</sup> dose
  - Wednesday, April 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose

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## COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Contact tracing and disease investigation

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response  
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- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office